

Press Release

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Basic Health application available on-line

Olympia, June 17, 1999: The Washington Basic Health Plan has made it even easier for members to apply for coverage: the Basic Health application is now available on-line.

Basic Health is available statewide and offers high-quality, affordable health care coverage to Washington State residents. Families that meet income guidelines may qualify for reduced premiums.

By accessing the Health Care Authority's (HCA) Web site (<http://www.wa.gov/hca>), interested individuals and organizations can get to Basic Health's publications (<http://www.wa.gov/hca/basicpubs.htm>). They can then download and print the application, instructions, and necessary worksheets, complete them, and return them to Basic Health. This means applicants do not have to call to request an application packet, then wait to have it mailed to them. It also means the HCA (the state agency that administers Basic Health) saves money on printing and postage costs.

Adobe Acrobat Reader software is needed to view the application; however, it can be downloaded from a link on the HCA Web site at no cost.

Basic Health applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Applicants are urged to complete all information, and to include all necessary documentation and the first month's premium payment for speedy processing. There is no reservation list for Basic Health coverage at this time.

A number of Basic Health publications have been on the HCA Web site for several months, including the *Consumer Guide*, which gives general information about the program; the *"You-Pay" Tables*, which walks applicants through the process of

determining approximate monthly premiums; and the *Member Handbook*, which provides more detailed information about Basic Health benefits for members.

Those interested in Basic Health coverage who do not have access to a computer can still request an application packet by calling Basic Health's toll-free number in Washington State, 1-800-826-2444.

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